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Some Reasons demonstrating the Prejudice and Nuisance that the Importation of Brandy occasions to *Ireland*, and consequently shewing a special cause of the increasing poverty, and scarcity of Money amongst us.



That which undermines the benefit, and welfare of the King and these Kingdoms, may well be reputed the common Nuisance thereof; Now that the Importation of Brandy doth so, may be evinc'd by Arguments drawn from losses

{ of the King,  
and  
of his people. }

*First*, The King thereby receiveth great loss, and detriment in his Customs for goods imported, & exported, and in all other his Revenues.

1. In Goods imported, there being not one Commodity in the Book of Rates, *pro rato*, that pays so inconsiderable a duty as Brandy; whilst French Wines pay Ten pounds ten shillings; Brandy pays but Forty shillings per Tun. And the like might be instanc'd in others, especially French Commodities, So that subtract



*Eight pounds ten shillings* loss per Tun in Two thousand Tuns (which may be supposed are brought in *per annum*) and there is *Seventeen thousand pounds per annum* deducted and lost, which would be brought in, either in wines, or other commodities yielding that Revenue to the King.

2. The Kings loss in Exportation is also considerable; for, *Brandy* being a ready-money commodity as well here, as in *France*, obstructs the carrying forth of our *Product and Manufactures*, both by Foreigners, and our selves, as will hereafter more fully appear. Now all of our *Product* paying considerable duties at their Exportation, the King (as well as the people) is a great loser by the obstruction thereof.

3. The King loseth abundantly in his *Inland Excise of Strongwaters*, which pays *Four pence per Gallon* in kind, to which add the *Customes* of the Ingredients whereof they are made, and so it comes to about *Six pence per Gallon*; whereas *Brandy* pays but *two pence per Gallon*, both for *Customes*, and *Excise*. Now because of the raw moisture of this *Climate*, the appetite of the people to strong Liquors, and the cheapness of the ordinary sorts of *Strongwaters* (being sold by the small retail measure as cheap as *Brandy*) it may therefore be supposed there would not be much less drunk of *Strongwaters* (were *Brandy* prohibited) than there is now of *Brandy*; or at least what may be defalk't thereby, would be made up in the drinking of so much the more *Ale*, or else of *Wines*, which (as aforesaid) pays above Five times the duty of *Brandy*.

Secondly, There are Arguments drawn from the hurt  
of



of the people, which may be referred to prejudice done to the *health of their bodies, and to their Estates.*

1. By Brandy is a sickly constitution of body begot, the radical moisture dried up, the Stomach and Liver burnt, so as that not only many *thousands* of his Majesties subjects are at present *desiroy'd*, but also succeeding *Generations* likely to be *decay'd and enfeebl'd*, by the corroding, and nature-consuming Quality thereof: Whereas though *Strong-waters* are made of Spirits, and therefore likewise hot, yet by the juicy oily quality, and cordial nature of the Ingredients whereof they are made, the malignant disposition of the Spirit is altered, and (*not taken to excess*) becomes grateful, and cordial to the body.

2. By Brandy their wealth is greatly diminish'd; for,

1. Their *money* (the sinews and *life of Trade*) is thereby *carried out of the Countrey*; for, Foreigners, (especially French and Dutch) what ready Money they need to buy goods in other Parts, they know it is but touching here with Brandy (which also yields them good profit from us) and they presently are supplied.

Moreover our *Merchants* (though not designedly) may be said to *eat out* their own, and *our Bowels thereby*; for, as the carrying away of *our product, onely for consumptives*, which we consume our selves, especially uselesones, is interpretatively the carrying away of our Money, *because it obstructs the bringing in of those goods that would yield mony to us*, either by Forreigners coming hither for them, or else by our Transporting them abroad: so in *France* Brandy being a far more Staple



Commodity than Wines, or any other Goods, they *will not part with it, without ready money*; which is sometimes conveyed them in *specie* (as the French Lewis's, and other coyn that yields more in *France* than with us, and sometimes by Bills of Exchange by the way of *London*) Whereas for Wines, or other commodities, they will both Barter for our goods for part, and give us time for the payment of the rest;

But the Merchant because Brandy is a ready money Commodity here, and yields him good profit: *France* also lying near to him, Therefore, for quickness of return to his own particular present profit, he *complies* with the incommodious term *ready money*, whereby, as he is taken off from carrying our native commodities to other parts, where the effects of them would produce both necessary goods, and money, to enrich our Countrey; so our own growth, and other goods thereby lie upon our hands, which yet are so necessary to our neighbours, that *we need not fear* in the least the *vending of what we can well spare, were Brandy prohibited* from us.

2. The Improvement of Tillage is greatly *obstructed by Brandy*; for, by how much the more readily we get Forreign consumptives, by so much the more careless are we to improve the earth by our own industry, in respect whereof there is and will be great loss, and *prejudice* to this Countrey; For hence may be seen a main cause of the late scarcity of Corn amongst us; because *Brandy* having become almost the *general drink of the Kingdom*, the rates of Corn were so small, that most Husbandmen neglected their Tillage; and therefore though by our present scarcity much more land is Tilled for the next ensuing year; yet if the Importation of Brandy



Brandy ( the true cause of the discouragement thereof ) continues , in a few years time the like cheapness , and consequently the like scarcity returns upon us again.

Besides it but Two Thousand Tuns of Brandy are spent *per annum* , yet at Thirty pounds per Tun , it amounts to Sixty Thousand pounds *per annum* of money , ( at least prevented from being brought in , if not ) wastfully carried from us. Whereas on the contrary if we make that Two Thousand Tuns of Strong-water out of our own growth ; as there will be above trebble the Revenue ( beyond what is already made of Brandy ) accruing to the King ; so there will be for every Fifty Barrels of grain ( necessary to make one Tun of Spirits ) at least One hundred Thousand Barrels profitably improved of our own growth *per annum* , whereby.

Much of the now wast lands would be manur'd , & tilled.

Many Thousands of poor vagrant people would be employ'd.

Much of our prejudice by the act prohibiting Cattle for England compenst.

The art of Distillation encourag'd , which now pays dear for the Labour and Coals of Forreigners.

The course grain of the Countrey, now destroyed by Cattle advantageously improv'd.

The Tenant enrich'd by the advance of Grain.

The advance of Rents, and Price of Lands.

And consequently the advance of His Majesties Revenues in all respects whatsoever ; For all Taxes and impositions are assess'd and levied ( by them that assess and levy them ) not according to the number and quantity of Acres, but the quality of the Land, and the capacity of the People they are levied upon.

In



In a word, if one hundred and nineteen thousand pounds lost to His Majesty, ( besides what is lost in Exportations ) and four hundred and twenty thousand pounds lost to His Subjects, in seven years time, ( according to the above Computations ), is a Nuisance to this Kingdom ;

And if the importing excessive quantities of Brandy into *England*, is a far greater Nuisance to them ; then, as it may not be wondred at, that His Majesties Honourable Houses of Parliament the last Sessions but one, were passing a Bill for the prohibiting the importation thereof : So the premises duly considered, gives ground to hope, that his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant ( whose Loyalty and Love is so Zealously great to His Majesty, and these Kingdoms ) will strenuously further the like designed good for His Majesty, and Subjects in *Ireland*.




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**F I N I S.**







67

Some Reasons Humbly Offered against  
passing a Clause in the Bill, Intituled,  
*A Bill for the more Effectual putting in  
Execution the Act for Prohibiting all Trade  
and Commerce with France.*

**T**HE Act directs that all kinds of Wine shall be sold at  
Six pence the Quart, after the First day of *February*,  
1690.

That no Wine shall be sold in Bottles, or in any other Measure  
than Pewter Pots.

That whoever shall Offend, being Convicted by the Con-  
fession of the Party, or Oath of Two Witnesses before a Justice  
of Peace, shall forfeit Fifty Shillings, to be recovered by Distress  
and Sale of the Offenders Goods, and for want of sufficient Dis-  
tress the Offendor to be Committed without Bail.

First, The Act as it is pend, seems to extend to all kind of  
Wines whatsoever; and if so, it will totally destroy our Trade  
with *Spain, Portugal, &c.* and lose the King One Hundred Thou-  
sand Pounds *per Annum* in His Customs.

Secondly, If Bottles be wholly prohibited, no *Italian* Wine must  
be Imported, for they come all in Flasks and Bottles, nor must any  
Wine be sold out of doors, nor any sent into the Country; and so  
above half the Consumption will be hindred, Exportation and Im-  
portation discouraged, and consequently Their Majesties Revenue  
much lessened.

Thirdly, If Conviction upon Oath before a Justice, without  
Tryal by a Jury according to the Antient Laws of the Land be al-  
lowed, it will countenance ill Men, promote *Perjury*, and discour-  
age honest Men in their Lawful Callings.

*Note*, That Consumption is the Interest of the King and King-  
dom, and whatsoever hinders That, is an Injury to both.